

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 AID-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
/094 W

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R 161608Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8041

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3648

FOL MSG BEING REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

ACCRA 3648

LISBON FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PARTY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR RH GH

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG TALKS WITH SITHOLE

FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEL COVERING TALK WITH SITHOLE.

1. SITHOLE TELEPHONED EMBASSY WITH REQUEST TO MEET WITH  
AMBASSADOR YOUNG IN ACCRA JUST BEFORE ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT.  
WE ARRANGED FOR HIM TO COME TO RESIDENCE AT 1215 HOURS  
MAY 13 FOR THAT PURPOSE. UNDER SBAI  
I  
RY MOOSE, ASST.  
AAECRETRY MAYNES, AMBASSADOR SMITH, PETTERSON AND SITHOLE  
AIDE MUKONO ALSO ATTENDED.

2. SITHOLE REPEATED THAT HE APPRECIATES ROLE US HAS ASSUMED  
IN ZIMBABWE SITUATION. PRESSURE SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE  
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BROUGHT TO BEAR ON SMITH. THE POSITIVE US STAND ON  
ZIMBABWE AUGERS WELL FOR THE FUTURE. HE WAS GRATEFUL THAT US  
STAYS IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM. SITHOLE REITERATED HE  
DID NOT WANT TO SEE ZIMBABWE TURNED INTO A SUPERPOWER  
BATTLEGROUND. "WE FEEL QUITE THREATENED," HE SAID, BY  
SOVIET INFLUENCES, AND WANT "TO BE OURSELVES, FREE TO CHOOSE  
OUR OWN FRIENDS AND ENEMIES."

3. COMING TO THE POINT OF HIS VISIT, SITHOLE SAID THE USSR WAS MOVING VERY FAST, POURING IN LOTS OF MONEY (FOR MILITARY HARDWARE AND ORGANIZATIONAL EXPENSES). "OUR FRIENDS -- US, UK, CANADA, ETC. -- SHOULD HELP FINANCIALLY SO WE CAN MEET CHALLENGE." HE STRESSED THAT "WITH REAL HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS WE CAN EXCLUDE SOVIET INFLUENCE."

4. PERHAPS DISAPPOINTED WE DID NOT LEAP TO OFFER HIM SUPPORT OR RESPO  
D TO HIS REIEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, SITHOLE THEN GAVE US A COPY OF A PRESS RELEASE HE PLANS TO RELEASE MAY 19. THIS TWO PAGE DOCUMENT (TEXT SENT SEPTTEL) ATTACKS THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND FRONT LINE STATES FOR USURPING THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AND TRYING TO PREDETERMINE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP OF COUNTRY. ITS MAIN POINT IS THAT SITHOLE IS RETURNING TO ZIMBABWE TO GIVE HIS PEOPLE "A CLEAR DIRECTION OF THEIR DETERMINATION TO REMAIN MASTERS OF THEIR OWN DESTINY INSTEAD OF THE FRONT LINE STATES ASSUMING THAT ROLE." SITHOLE DID NOT SAY WHEN OR HOW HE PLANS TO RETURN TO ZIMBABWE. HOWEVER, HE PLANS TO MEET WITH GRAHAM IN LONDON ON MAY 16 AND THEN FLYING FROM ACCRA TO LONDON MAY 14 OR 15.

5. YOUNG SAID US DOES NOT WANT TO DICTATE WHO WILL BE LEADER IN ZIMBABWE BUT WILL SUPPORT WHATEVER LEADERSHIP THAT COUNTRY CHOOSES. IF, AFTER SMITH GOES, A SPLIT OPENS UP THE LEADERSHIP, THE SOVIETS WILL USE IT TO  
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CREATE CONFUSION. IN THIS CASE, US MIGHT HAVE TO STAY OUT UNTIL LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE IS SETTLED. IN THE MEAN-TIME, DURING A CIVIL WAR THE LEADERSHIP AND RESOURCES OF ZIMBABWE COULD BE DESTROYED. YOUNG NOTED HE HAD TOLD MUZOREWA THAT IF SOME LIBERATION FIGURE TOOK THE POSITION THAT HE WOULD FORSAKE THE STRUGGLE FOR PERSONAL POWER TO WORK WITH OR UNDER ANOTHER OR COALITION OF NATIONALIST LEADERS, HE WOULD BE CREDITED AS THE FATHER OF ZIMBABWE. YOUNG ASKED SITHOLE HOW HE WOULD FEEL ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY. SITHOLE SAID HE MAIN THING WAS INDEPENDENCE FIRST. THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE COULD THEN CHOOSE THEIR LEADERS. REPEATING THAT INDEPENDENCE WAS WHAT COUNTED, SITHOLE ADDED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITIATIVE WILL HELP THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE TO CHOOSE THEIR LEADERS THEMSELVES. THIS IS A RIGHT WHICH BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, HE WAS IN TOUCH BOTH WITH MUZOREWA AND NKOMO, AND IF ONE OR THE OTHER WERE FREELY CHOSEN AS LEADER BY THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE, HE WOULD BE QUITE WILLING

TO WORK UNDER HIM.

6. YOUNG SAW A PROBLEM. PERHAPS THE SOVIETS WOULD TRY TO CHOOSE ZIMBABWE'S LEADERS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF AN UNDERSTANDING WAS REACHED BETWEEN LIBERATION LEADERS TO DIVIDE RESONSIBILITIES BETWEEN THEM AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER FOR SPECIFIC POSITIONS, THIS MIGHT PREVENT "THE PEOPLE WITH GUNS" FROM MAKING LEADER-SHIP DECISIONS. YOUNG SAID HE WOULD BE TALKING WITH MACHEL, WHO HE SEES AS THE KEY TO THIS ISSUE. HE CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT WHAT IS NEEDED IS RESTRAINT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION AND GREATER UNITY EFFORTS, BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.

7. COMMENT: AT LEAST IN HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH US IN ACCRA, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT SITHOLE HAS ASKED SPECIFICALLY FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT. YOUNG DID NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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RPT NOT COMMENT ON THIS POINT.

8. FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'LRPARTY: PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU WISH US TO TRANSMIT ABOVE. SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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